haps a vote reversing the non-confidence resolution of yesterday would do?

"All right," I said, "I shall take a vote. Those who desire me to remain the president raise their hands. . . . Now, those who are against. . . . The decision is unanimous. . . ." When the cheers subsided, I continued, "Should I accept your decision as a vote of confidence?" There was a silence. Then a high-pitched, almost hysterical voice cried, "We trust nobody."

"If you do not trust me," I shouted back, "look for another president. I have had enough of this."

Then bedlam broke out. "You have no right to quit when people need you!" The meeting became utterly chaotic. Some shouts were abusive, but as the tumult went on, I again began to feel the ties between me and these people. I could not quit so long as they needed me. With great effort I restored order and said, "To hell with the vote of confidence! I don't care whether you trust me or not. I trust you and shall stay with you."

THE LAST CAMPAIGN

This meeting—I did not know that it was to be my last meeting in the harbor—also brought me back to party work. Little was left of the party organization in St. Petersburg. Workers were deserting the factory cells. The leaders disappeared behind the Finnish border. Some had already settled in Paris and Switzerland, traditional havens of Russian political refugees. The St. Petersburg Committee continued to meet but had nothing to discuss at its meetings.

The main event in party life was the approaching trial of the S-D deputies. They were to be tried behind closed doors, *in absentia*. When I raised the question of a protest campaign, the Bolsheviks in the Committee showed little interest, while the Mensheviks suggested issuing a leaflet. My proposal to organize factory meetings and call for a general walkout on the day of the trial met with a storm of objections. "We have no speakers, and if we had, nobody would listen to them." I felt that the honor of the party required a demonstration.

"The workers feel the infamy of this trial," I said, "and will respond to our appeal for a protest. If we cannot hold a meeting on factory premises, I can bring fifty or a hundred unemployed workers to the gate of any factory and stop the crew. . . . We need no speakers. Every worker can say a few words in a flying meeting."

Since the Mensheviks were against my proposal, the Bolsheviks came out in support of it. Then the Mensheviks realized that the